

SECRET FREEDOM
PART 4 OF 4

ISSUE 44

SEGA®



SONIC UNIVERSE™



ARCHIECOMICS.COM

Tracy Bradley
- Jim Amash

Welcome to the planet Mobius - - a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Silver the Hedgehog and the Secret Freedom Fighters race against time to save the unwitting citizens of New Mobotropolis from evil!

SONIC UNIVERSE™

PREVIOUSLY...

The city of New Mobotropolis is under SIEGE!

Sonic the Hedgehog's home city continues to reel following the devastating attacks of Dr. Eggman. These attacks have led to the destruction of the city's heroes, the Freedom Fighters.

The city has also been attacked from within, as the evil Wizard Ixis Naugus and his apprentice Geoffrey St. John have usurped the crown of Acorn, using their dark magic to turn public opinion in their favor. But in the shadows a new team of Secret Freedom Fighters have formed to put an end to Naugus's rule!

After battling both Geoffrey and Naugus, the Secret Freedom Fighters found themselves evenly matched with these forces of evil. Evenly matched, that is, until Silver was able to convince team leader Elias Acorn that they might be able to reason with Geoffrey St. John, instead of battling him head on.

Silver's gamble paid off, and Geoffrey revealed to our heroes the true, terrifying depths of Naugus's plan - to take control of the Council of Acorns' minds as they ratify the Kingdom's new constitution! If Naugus was able to control the law of the land, he would be unstoppable.

The Secret Freedom Fighters are NOT about to let that happen...



WHO'S WHO



SILVER THE HEDGEHOG
TIME TRAVELER
--CALL SIGN "ACE"



ELIAS ACORN
DEPOSED KING
--CALL SIGN "KING"



KING NAUGUS
CONNIVING IXIS WIZARD



GEOFFREY ST. JOHN
TRAITOR AND IXIS APPRENTICE

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**UNsung
HEROES**
PART FOUR:

FIGHT the **POWER!**

IAN FLYNN : writer / TRACY YARDLEY! : pencils / JIM AMASH : inks / JACK MORELLI : letters / STEVE DOWNER : colors
YARDLEY!, AMASH & HERMS : cover / VINCENT LOVALLO : Assistant Editor / PAUL KAMINSKI : Editor/Executive Director of Editorial
VICTOR GORELICK : Editor-in-Chief / MIKE PELLERITO : President / Thanks to ANTHONY GACCIONE & CINDY CHAU at Sega Licensing

DEEP UNDER NEW
MOBOTROPOLIS...

KING IXIS
NAUGUS
CONNIVING
IXIS
WIZARD

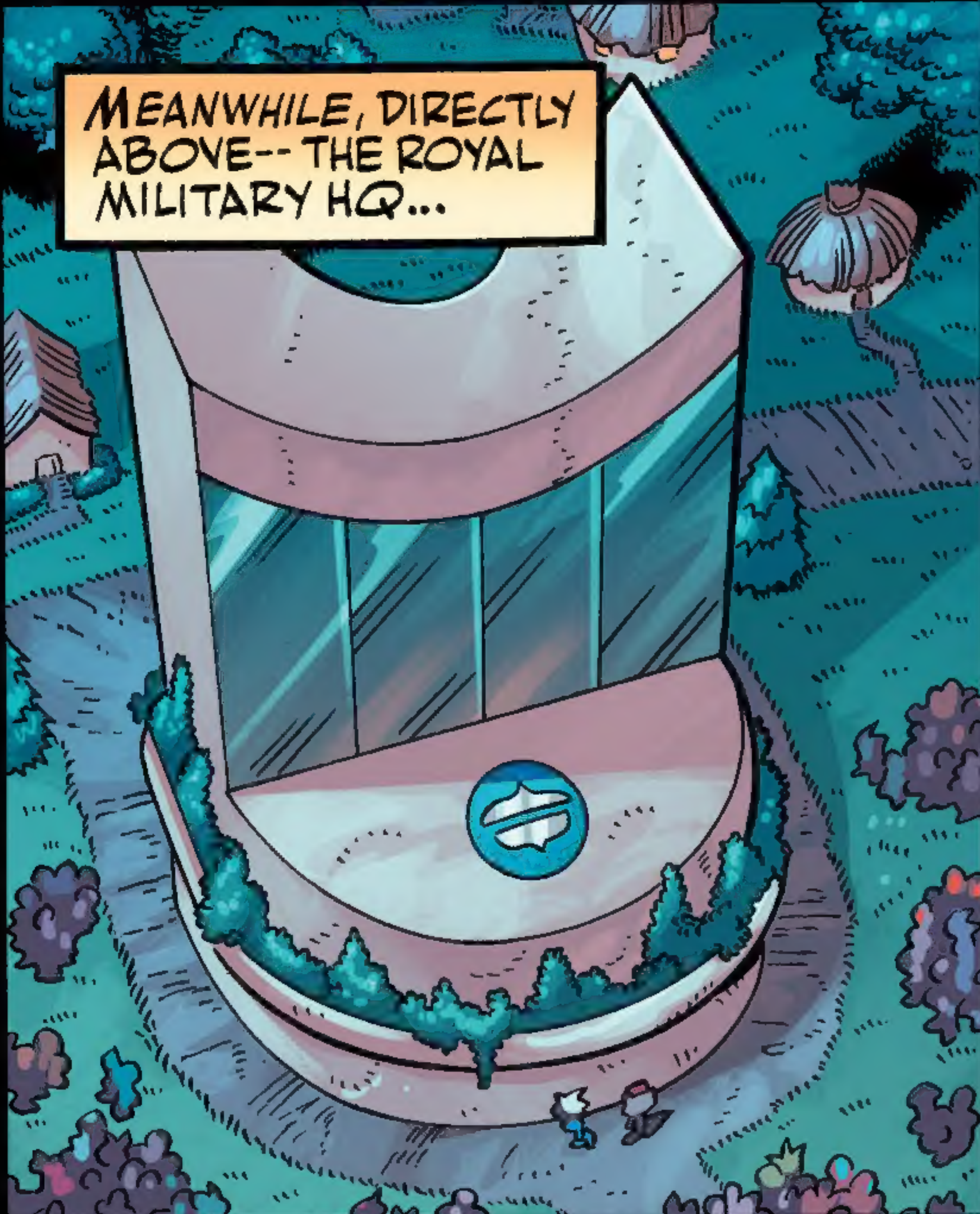
Ahhhh...
EVERYTHING
IS PROCEEDING
PERFECTLY!

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES,
THE ELDRITCH RITES WILL
BE COMPLETE! THE MINDS
OF THE COUNCIL OF
ACORN WILL BE BOUND
TO MY WILL, AND THE
ORDER OF IXIS WILL
RISE ANEW!

SURE.

SPLENDID.

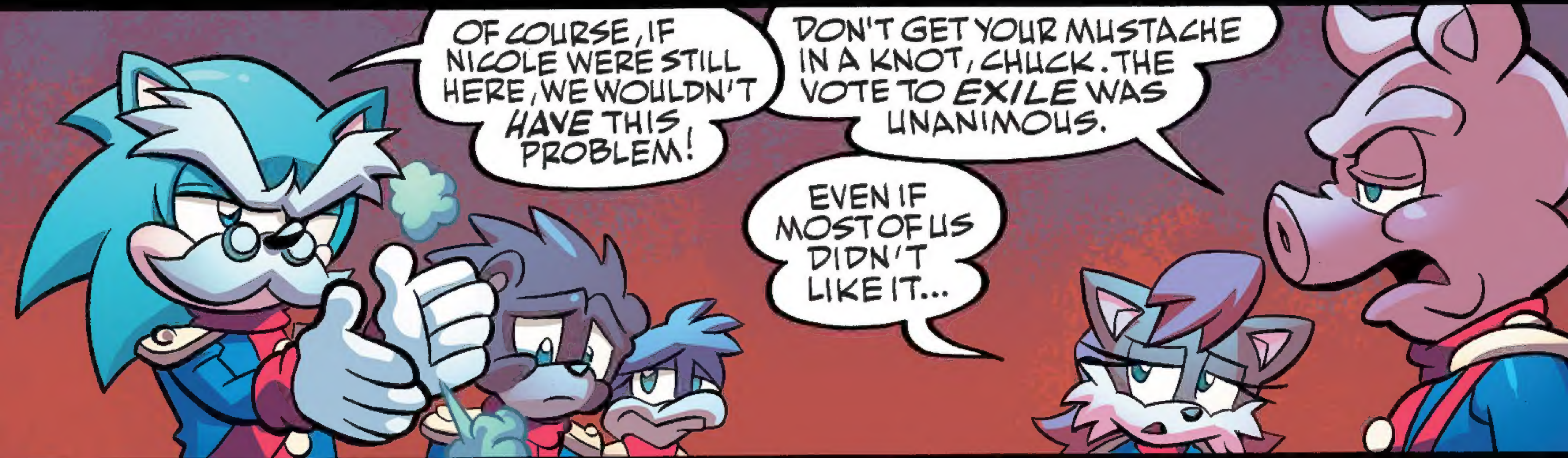
GEOFFREY
ST. JOHN
IXIS
APPRENTICE



MEANWHILE, DIRECTLY ABOVE-- THE ROYAL MILITARY HQ...



NO LUCK, CHARLES?
I'M AFRAID NOT, ROSE-MARY.
THE LOCK'S BUSTED.



OF COURSE, IF NICOLE WERE STILL HERE, WE WOULDN'T HAVE THIS PROBLEM!

DON'T GET YOUR MUSTACHE IN A KNOT, CHUCK. THE VOTE TO EXILE WAS UNANIMOUS.

EVEN IF MOST OF US DIDN'T LIKE IT...



WHAT'S WRONG, COUNCILOR DYLAN?

heh heh-- ah, WELL... IT SEEMS WE ARE LOCKED OUT OF THE BUILDING.

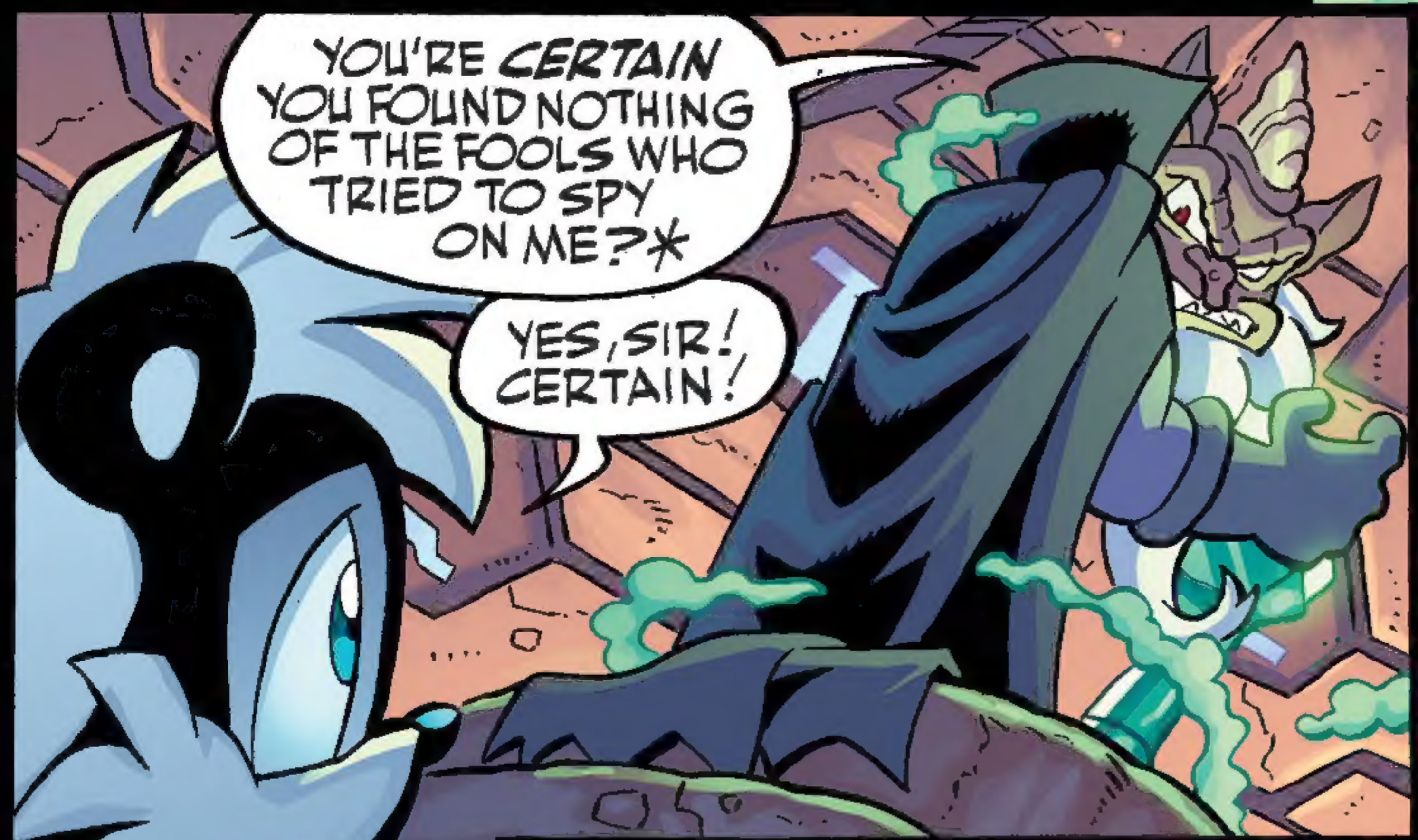


WE CAN'T REALLY RATIFY THE NEW CONSTITUTION IF WE CAN'T GET INSIDE, Y'KNOW?

WHICH KEEPS YOU OUT OF HARM'S WAY. C'MON, LARRY, KEEP WORKING YOUR BAD LUCK IN THEIR FAVOR... OR MINE. OR ...GAH!

LARRY LYNX
CALL SIGN:
JOKER
SUPER-JINX

"THE REST OF THE TEAM BETTER KICK NAUGUS'S BUTT, THOUGH. THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN MY LUCK WILL CHANGE!!"



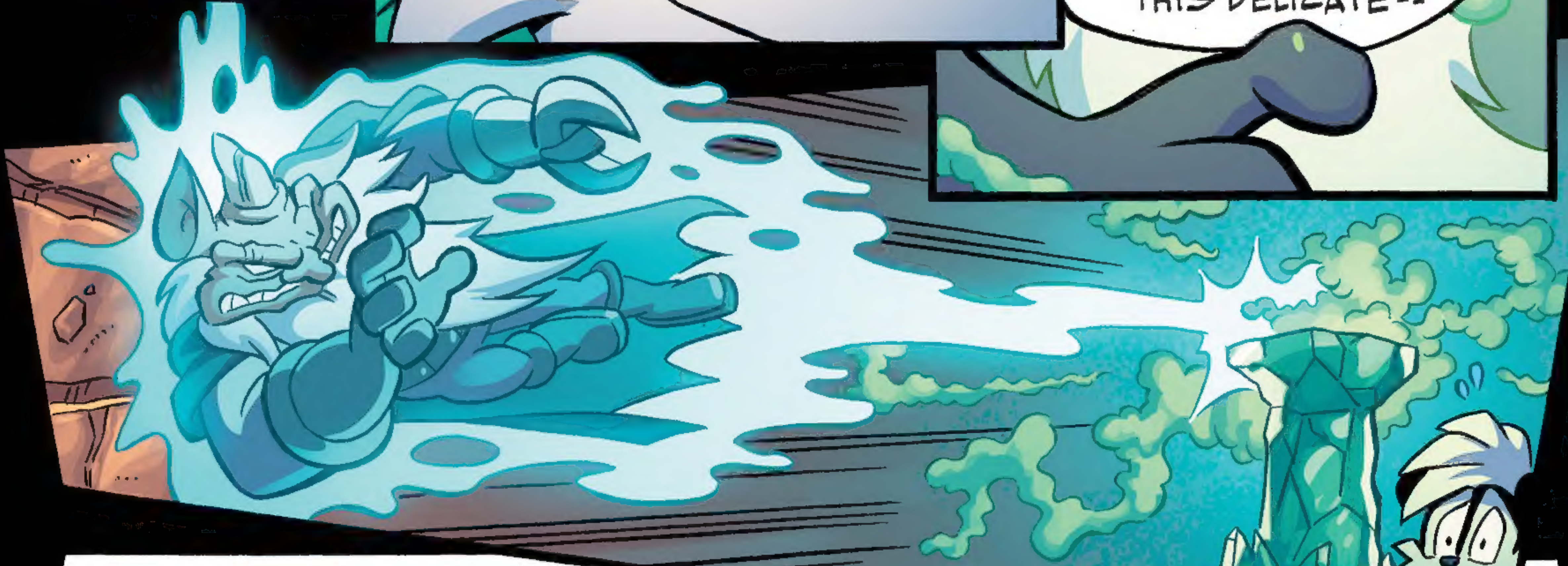
YOU'RE CERTAIN YOU FOUND NOTHING OF THE FOOLS WHO TRIED TO SPY ON ME?*

YES, SIR! CERTAIN!



KEEP A WEATHER EYE ON THE DOOR, THEN. THIS INCANTATION IS TOO COMPLEX AND TAXING TO REPEAT. I CANNOT BE INTERRUPTED AT THIS DELICATE--

*SU#42-43!



YOU WERE SAYING?



HISSESS!!

YOU'LL PAY FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE!

SHARD - CALL SIGN: JACK -- REFORMED METAL SONIC

SILVER - CALL SIGN: ACE -- TELEKINETIC

BIG TALK--

--FOR A GUY WHO'S RETREATING!

APPRENTICE! MY WAND-- NOW!

LITTLE BUSY AT THE MOMENT!

LEETA - CALL SIGN: QUEEN OF DIAMONDS WOLF PACK TWIN.

LYCO - CALL SIGN: QUEEN OF HEARTS YOU'RE NOT SEEING DOUBLE

DEET!

DEET!

DEET!

ELIAS - CALL SIGN: KING DETHRONED KING ACORN

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE DIRECTOR GOT ALL OF THESE EXPLOSIVES, BUT RIGHT NOW, I DON'T CARE!

I DO NOT NEED THE CHAOS EMERALD TO DEFEAT YOU! MY ELEMENTAL SORCERY IS UNSURPASSED!

MAN, ARE YOU IN FOR A RUDE AWAKENING!

NICE DISTRACTION, AZE!

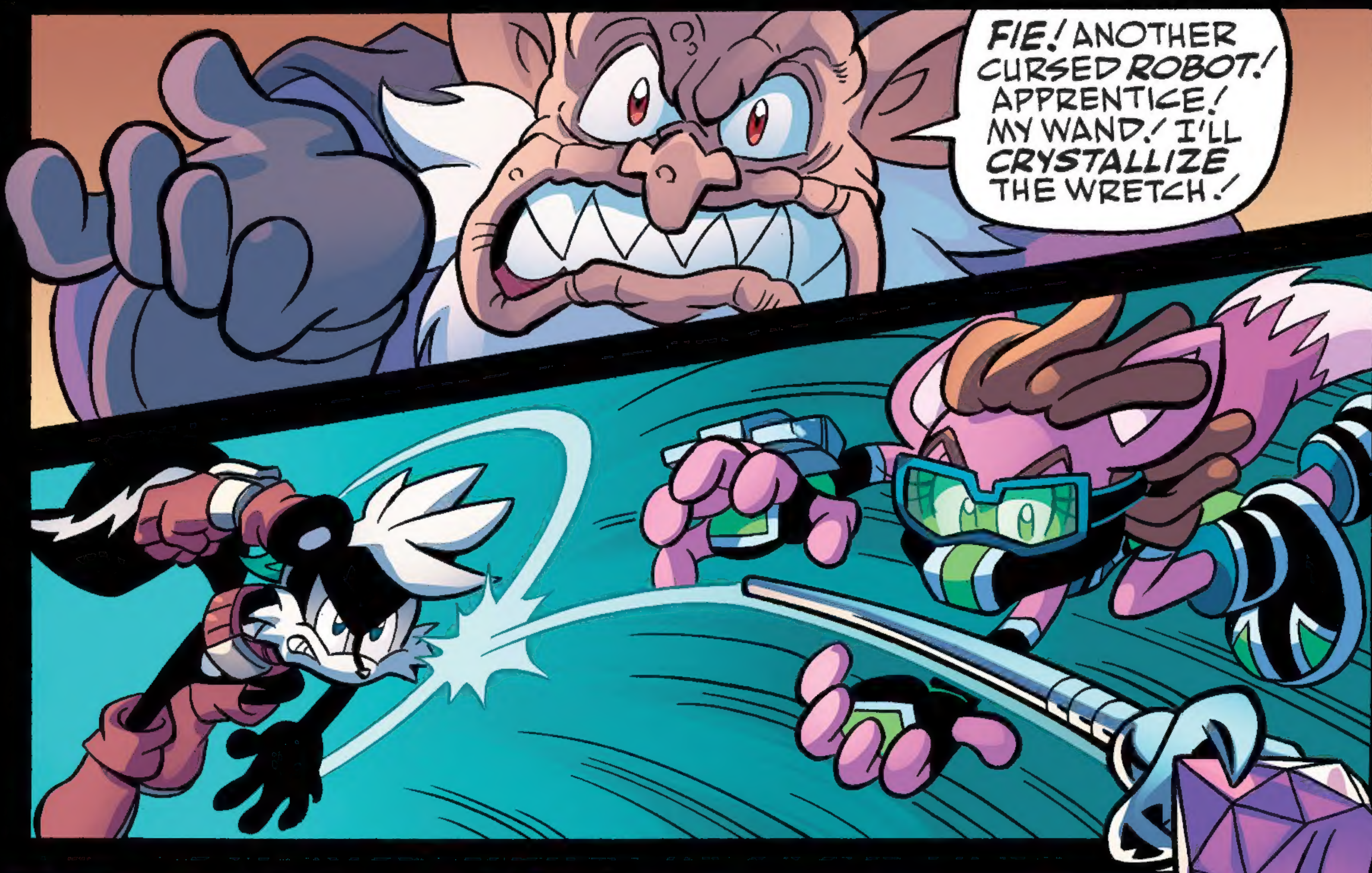




I'LL RIP THE VERY AIR FROM YOUR LUNGS!



HAHAHA! THAT'D WORK--
--IF I HAD LUNGS!



FIE! ANOTHER CURSED ROBOT! APPRENTICE! MY WAND! I'LL CRYSTALLIZE THE WRETCH!





OKAY, THAT OUGHT TO DO IT. DOORS ARE OPEN.

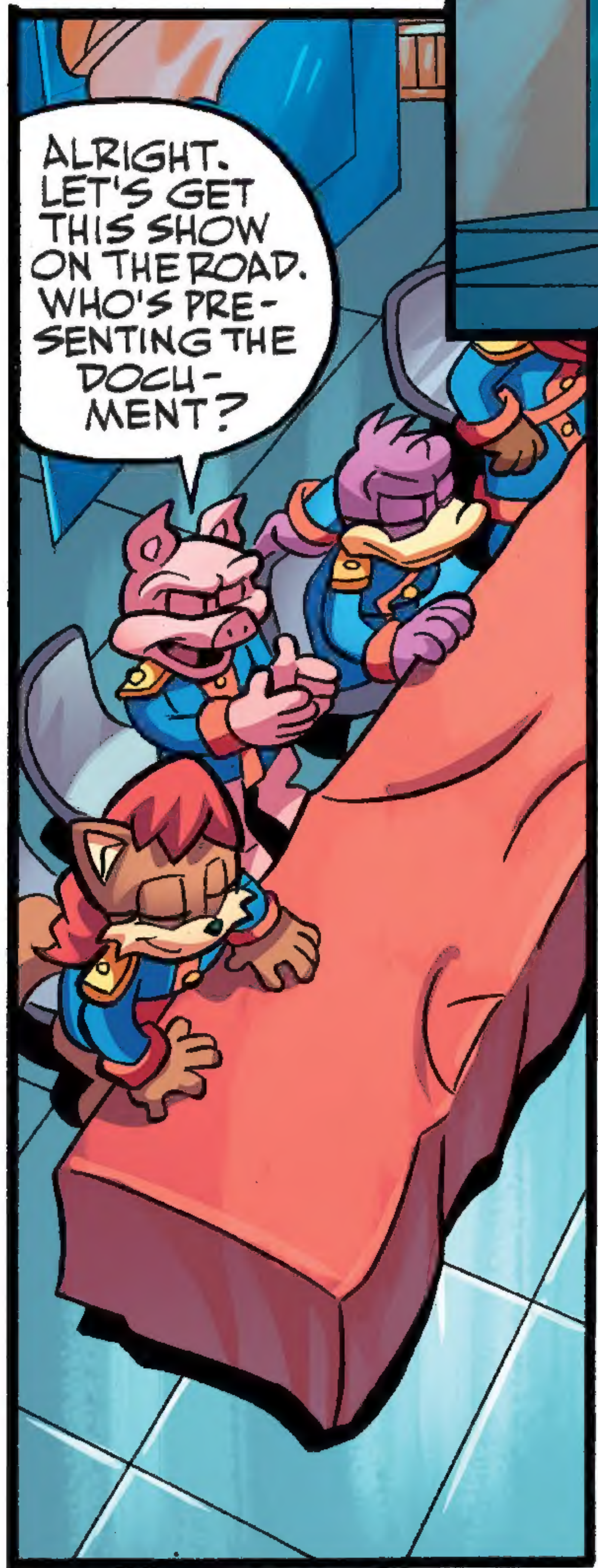
YOU JUST CAN'T STOP WORKING FOR THE COUNCIL, CAN YOU?



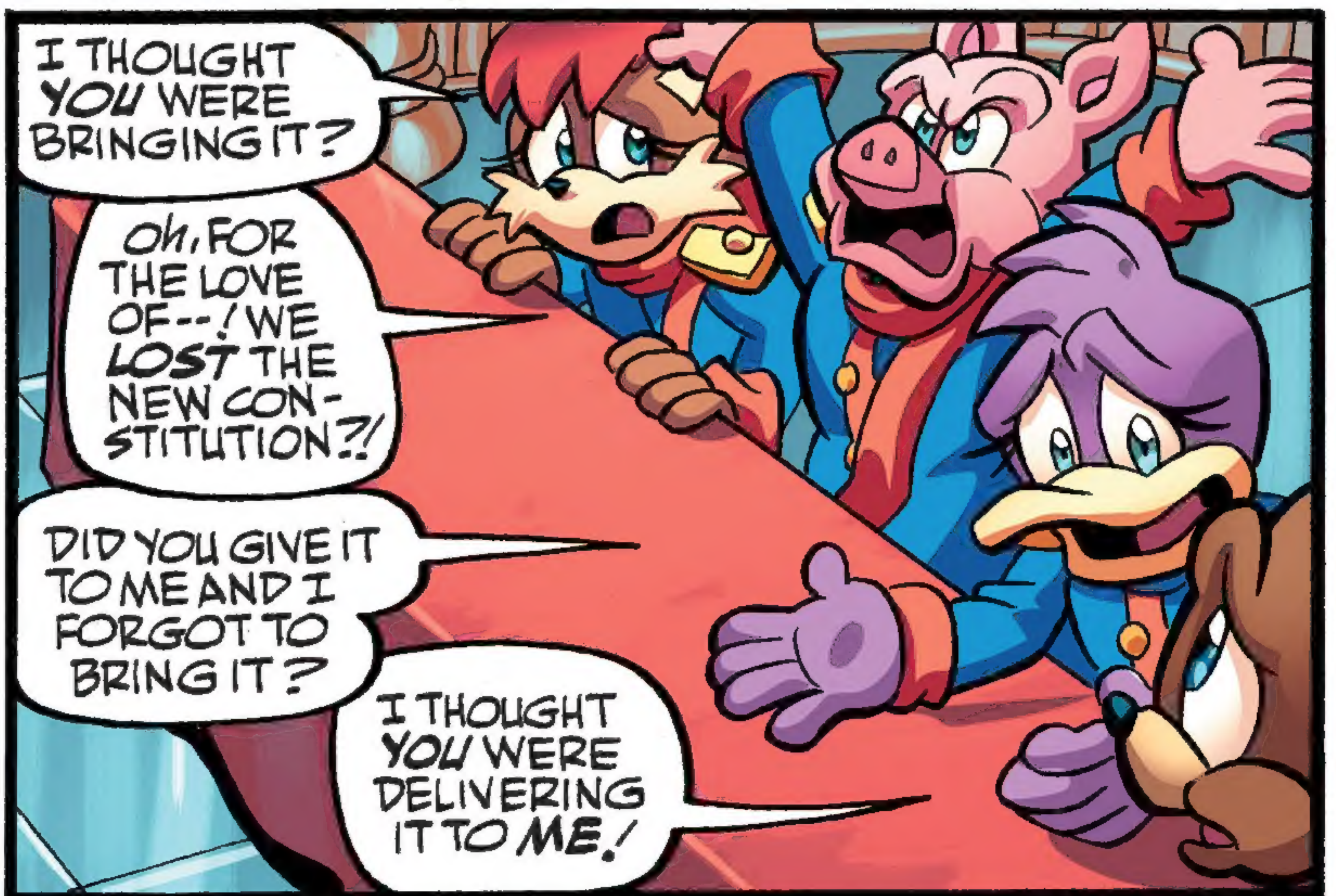
IF "GRAB HANDLE, THEN PULL" STUMPS YOU GUYS, THEN YOU'RE BEYOND MY HELP!

TEAM FREEDOM-- FIGHTING EGGMAN AND FIXING LOCKS. DO YOU UNCLOG DRAINS, TOO?

SURE. I'LL TELL BIG TO BRING HIS FISHING ROD.



ALRIGHT. LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD. WHO'S PRESENTING THE DOCUMENT?



I THOUGHT YOU WERE BRINGING IT?

Oh, FOR THE LOVE OF--! WE LOST THE NEW CONSTITUTION?!

DID YOU GIVE IT TO ME AND I FORGOT TO BRING IT?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DELIVERING IT TO ME!

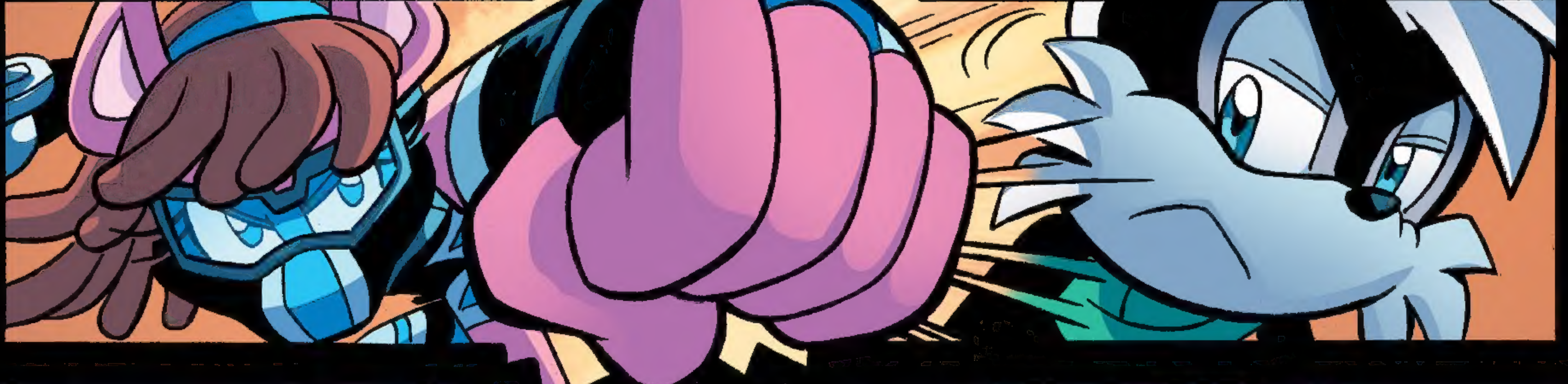


IT'S NOT LOST... JUST MIS-PLACED?!

YES! NOW EVERYBODY GO HOME AND LOOK FOR IT!

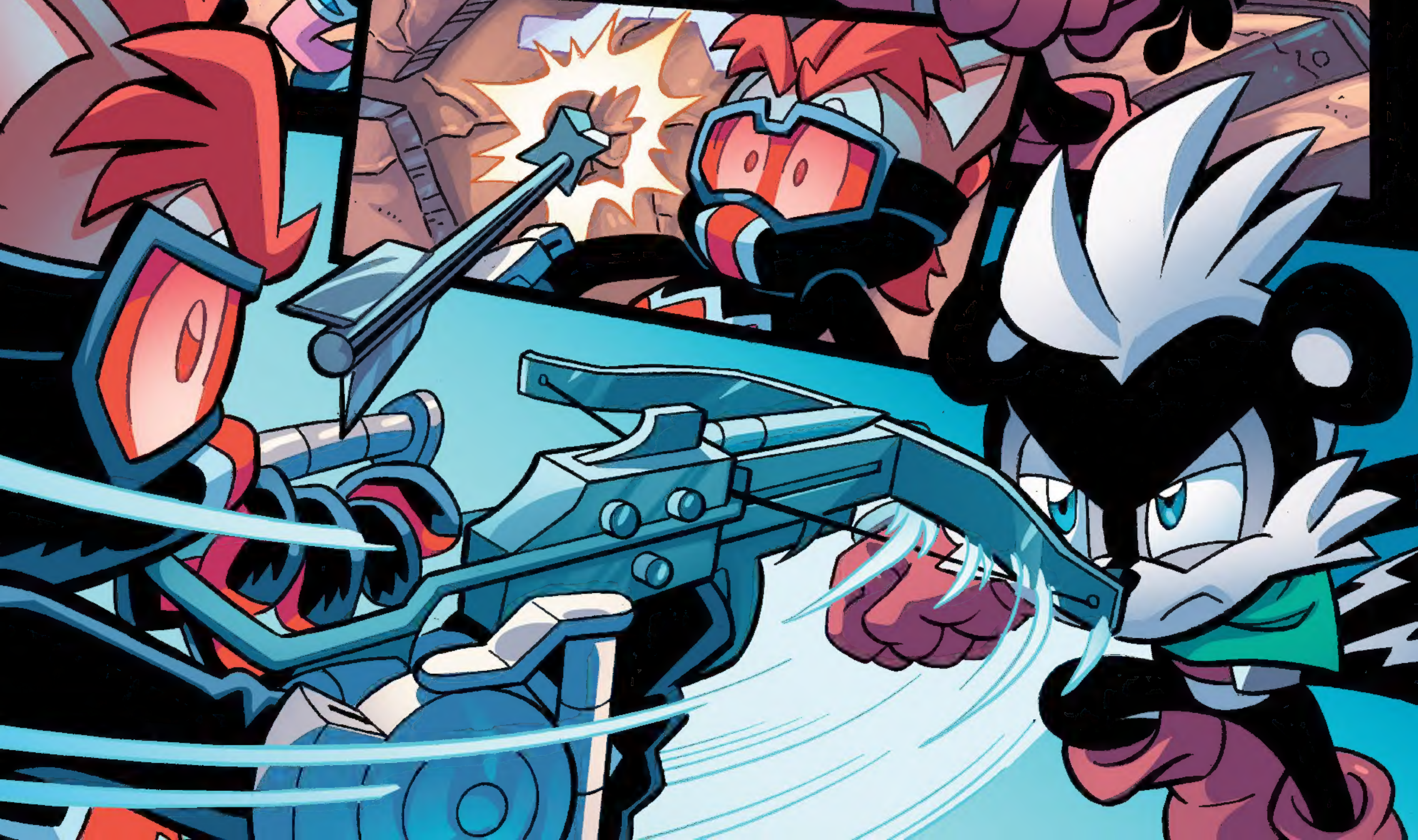


GOTTA SAY,
LUV, YOU'VE GOT
GREAT FORM. THE
"PERFECT DOUBLE"
THING IS REALLY
DISORIENTING!



BUT I
KNOW WHEN
I'M BEING
DISTRACTED!

KING!
HEADS
UP!!



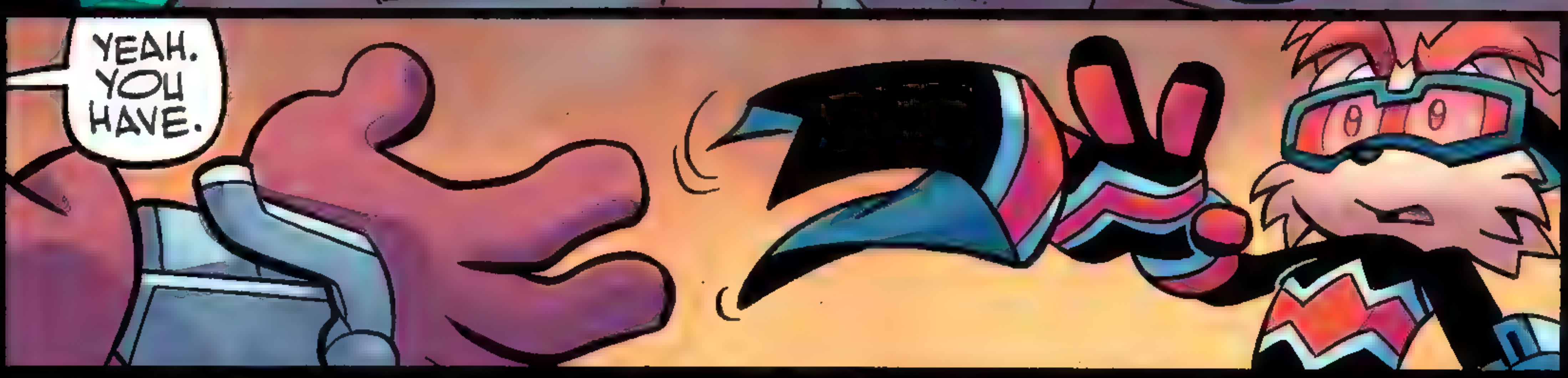




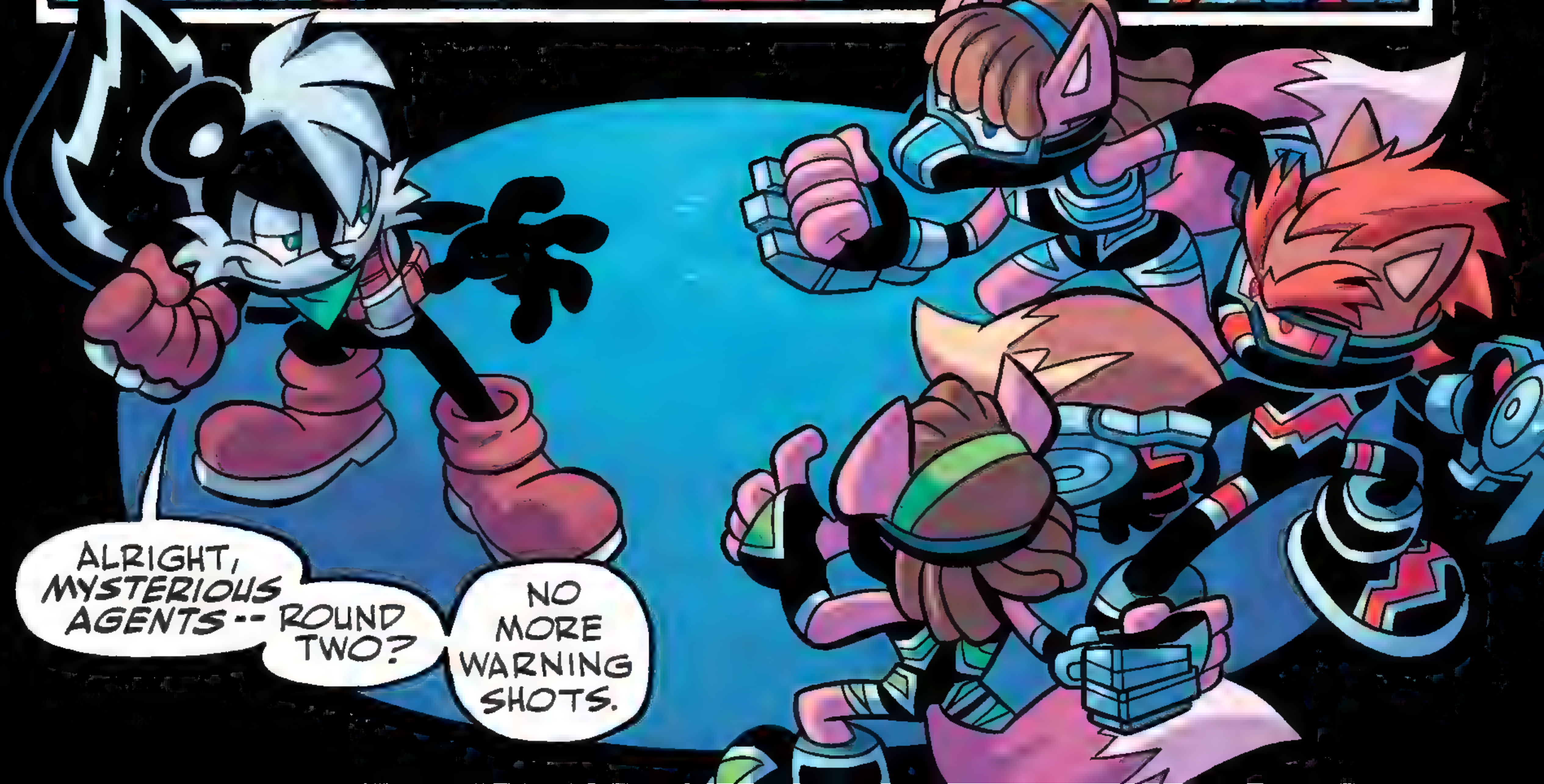
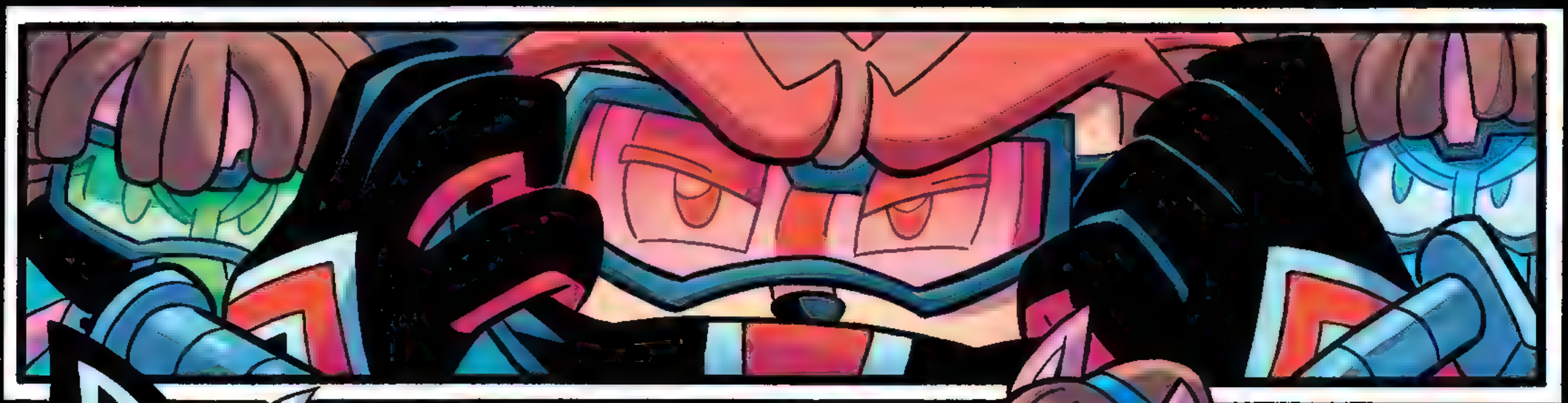
AGENT "KING," huh?
GOING FOR
"SO OBVIOUS
IT'S OVER-
LOOKED?"

THERE WAS A TIME
I HAD YOU WRAPPED
AROUND MY LITTLE
FINGER. POOR,
NAIVE LITTLE
PRINCE!

I'VE COME
A LONG WAY
SINCE
THEN.



YEAH.
YOU
HAVE.



ALRIGHT,
MYSTERIOUS
AGENTS -- ROUND
TWO?

NO
MORE
WARNING
SHOTS.



FOUND IT!
IT HAD FALLEN
BEHIND YOUR
WRITING DESK,
PENELOPE!

WELL, THAT'S
EMBARRASSING.
THANK YOU, CREAM
AND CHEESE, FOR
VOLUNTEERING
TO HELP LOOK
FOR IT!

WE'RE ON TEAM
FREEDOM--HELPING
PEOPLE IS WHAT WE
DO! THE ENVELOPE
IS ADDRESSED TO
MRS. PROWER,
THOUGH.

Oh! HAHA! Ahh...
I MUST'VE LEFT
IT AT YOUR HOUSE
WHEN WE HAD
DINNER THE
OTHER
NIGHT.

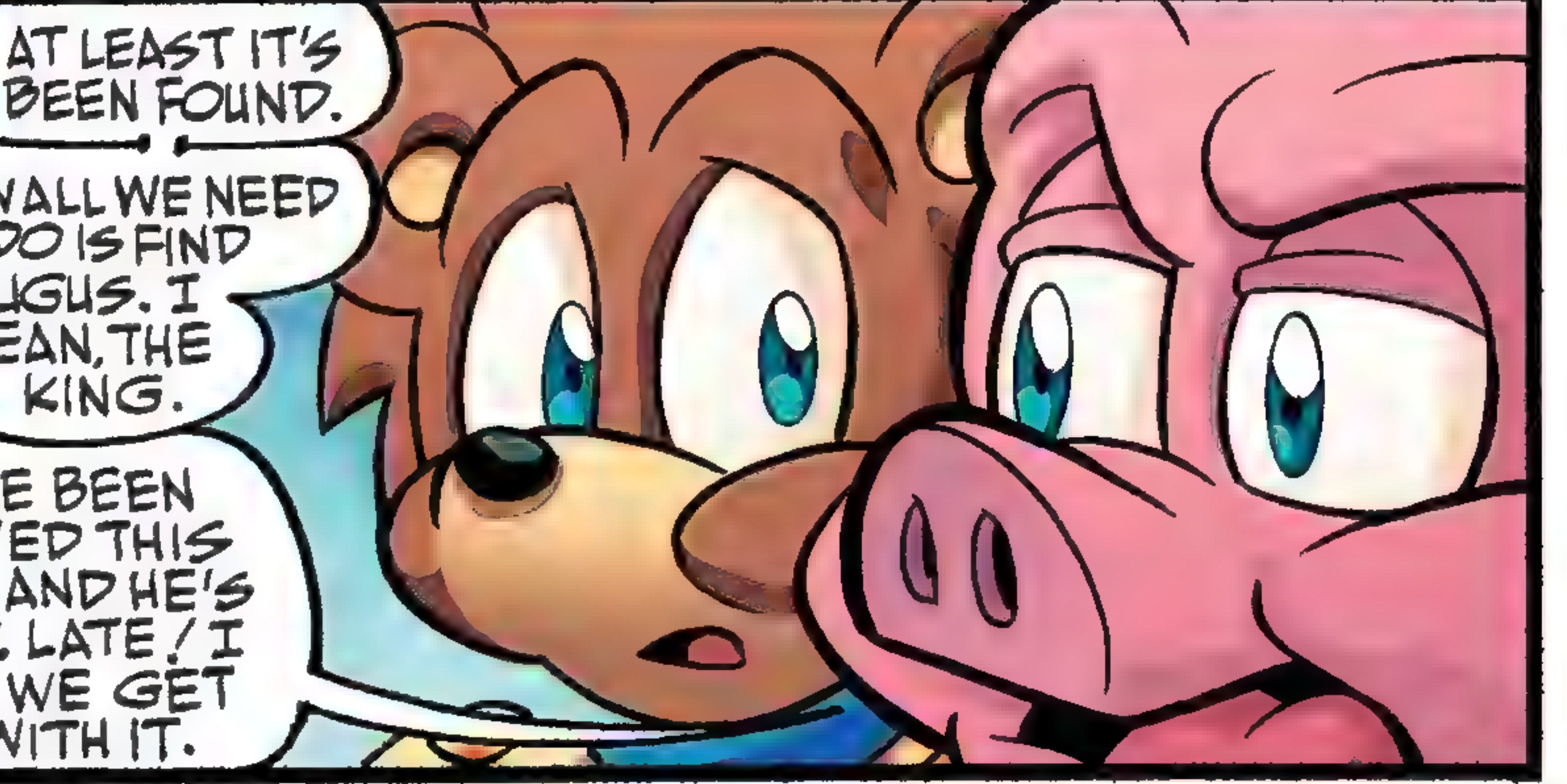
MY
APOLOGIES.



AT LEAST IT'S
BEEN FOUND.

NOW ALL WE NEED
TO DO IS FIND
NAUGUS. I
MEAN, THE
KING.

WE'VE BEEN
DELAYED THIS
LONG AND HE'S
STILL LATE! I
SAY WE GET
ON WITH IT.



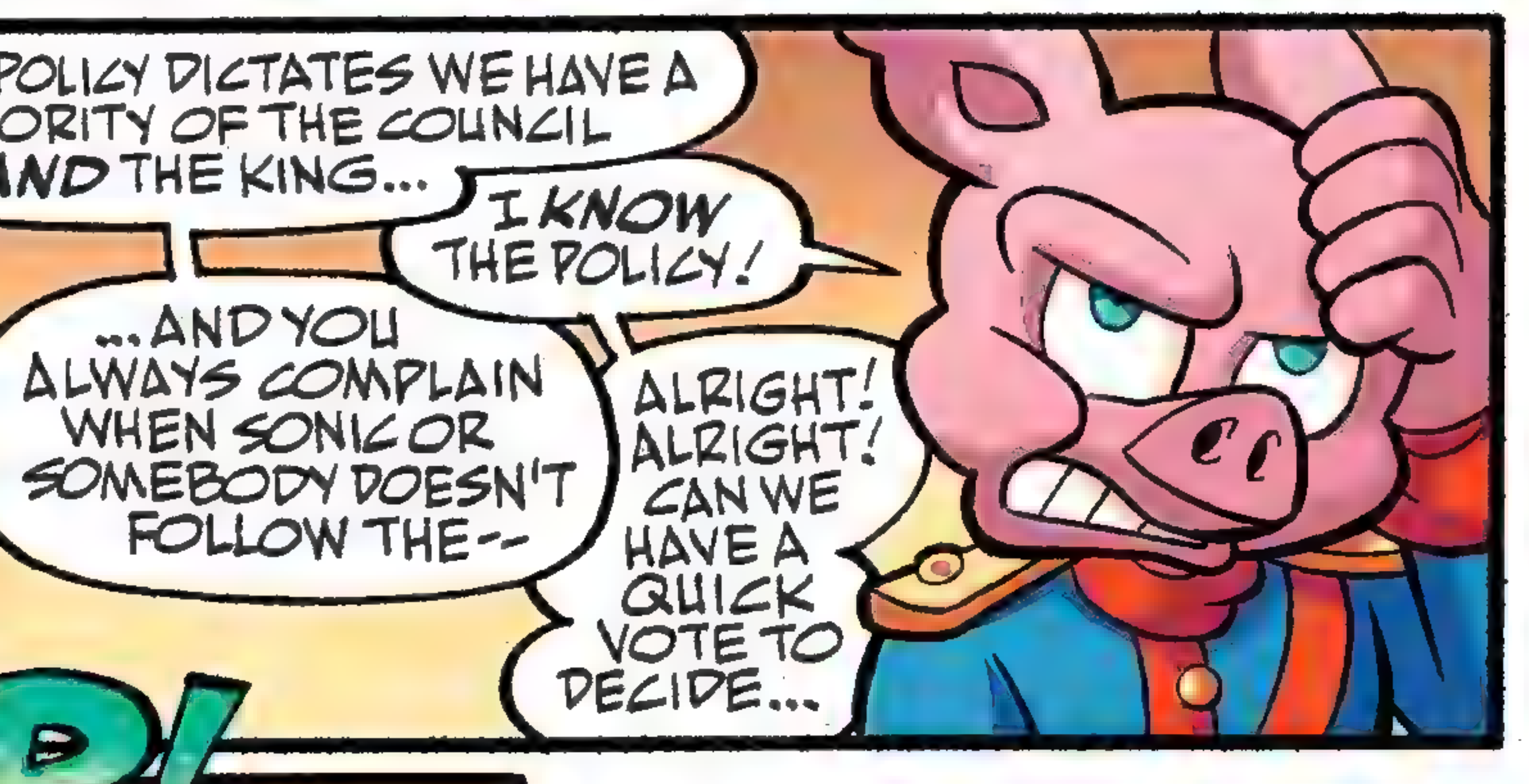
BUT POLICY DICTATES WE HAVE A
MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL
AND THE KING...

I KNOW
THE POLICY!

...AND YOU
ALWAYS COMPLAIN
WHEN SONIC OR
SOMEBODY DOESN'T
FOLLOW THE--

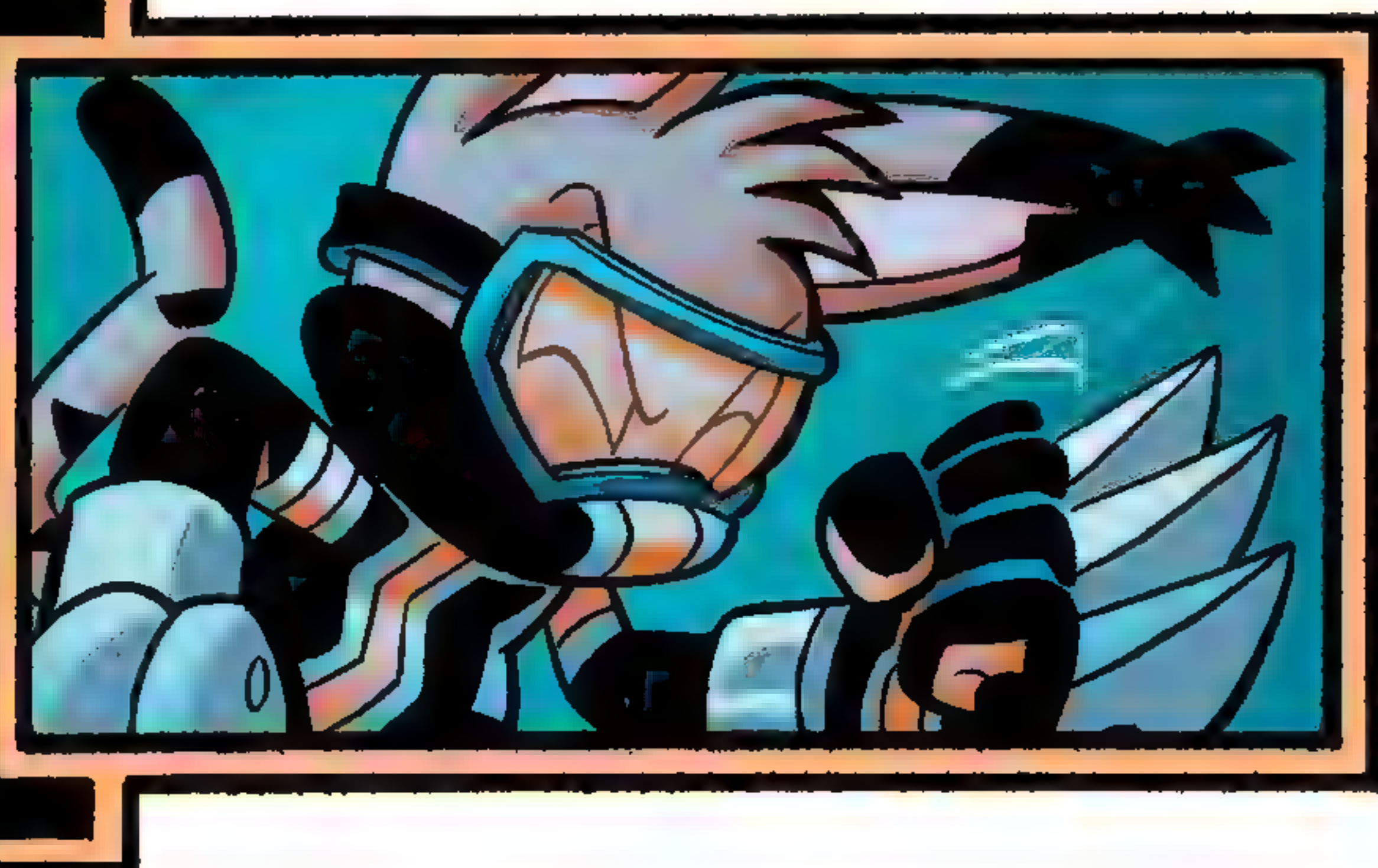
ALRIGHT!
ALRIGHT!
CAN WE
HAVE A
QUICK
VOTE TO
DECIDE...

Bwooop!



DID WE JUST
BLOW A FUSE?

Oh, FOR
PITY'S
SAKE!!



IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?!

AUGH!!

HAHA HAHA!
I FOUGHT AN ENERJAK! * YOUR TRICKS ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO HIS POWER!

* SILVER ARC -- SU # 25-28

HE COULD SHOOT VAPORIZING LASER BEAMS AND MOVE CONTINENTS. WHAT DO YOU GOT?

SAY...

HSSSS!

COULD HE CONVERT THE ELEMENTS WITH A THOUGHT?

... COMBUST THE VERY AIR AROUND YOU?

AHH!!



THIS IS RIDICULOUS. WE'VE BEEN HAMMERING ON HIM AND HE'S STILL KEEPING US AT BAY! IT'S TAKING TOO LONG TO STOP HIM...

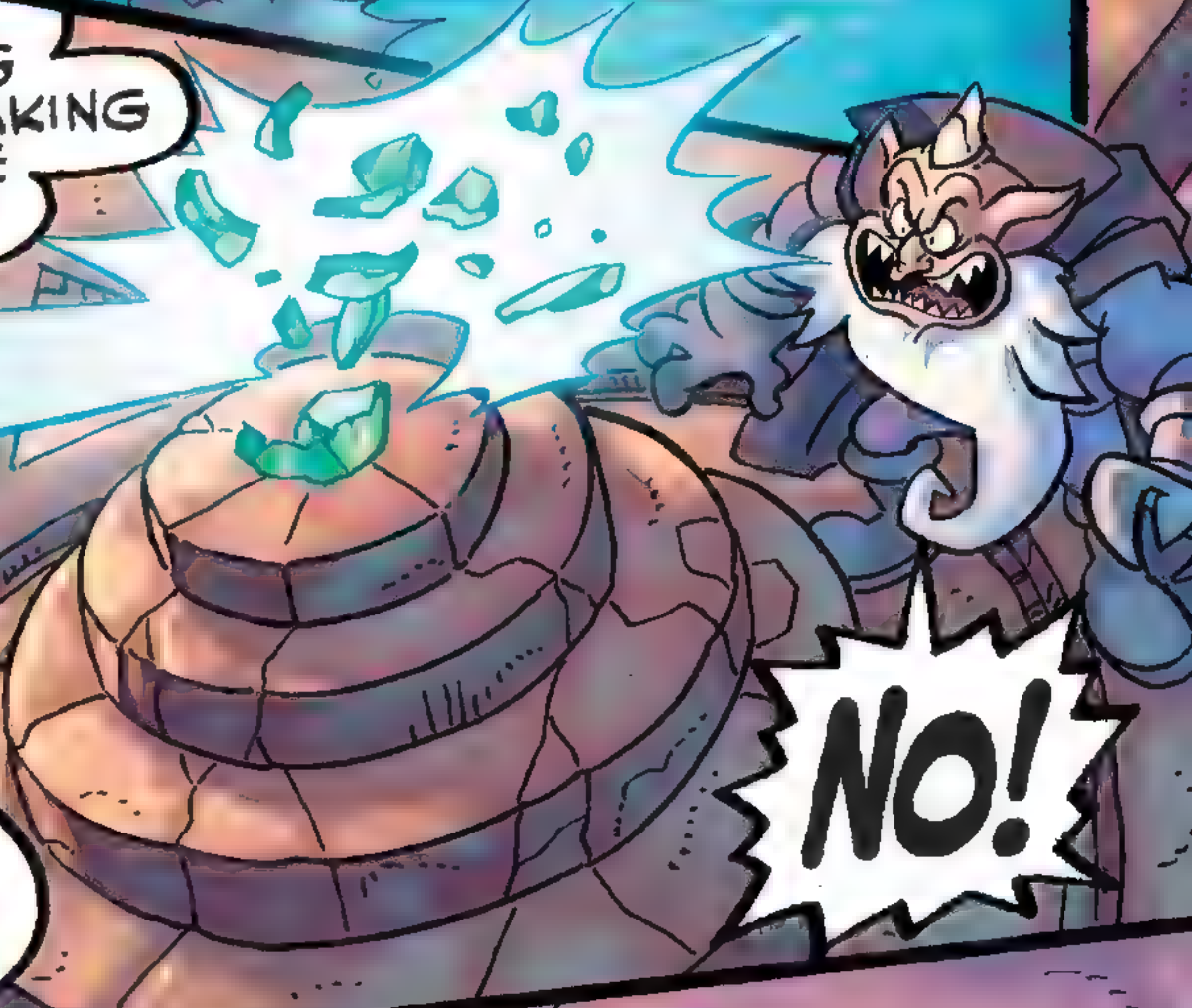


Hmm...

HEY, KING! I'M BREAKING RANKS AND MAKING AN EXECUTIVE DECISION.



I CAN STILL FINISH IT! I CAN STILL TAKE CONTROL!

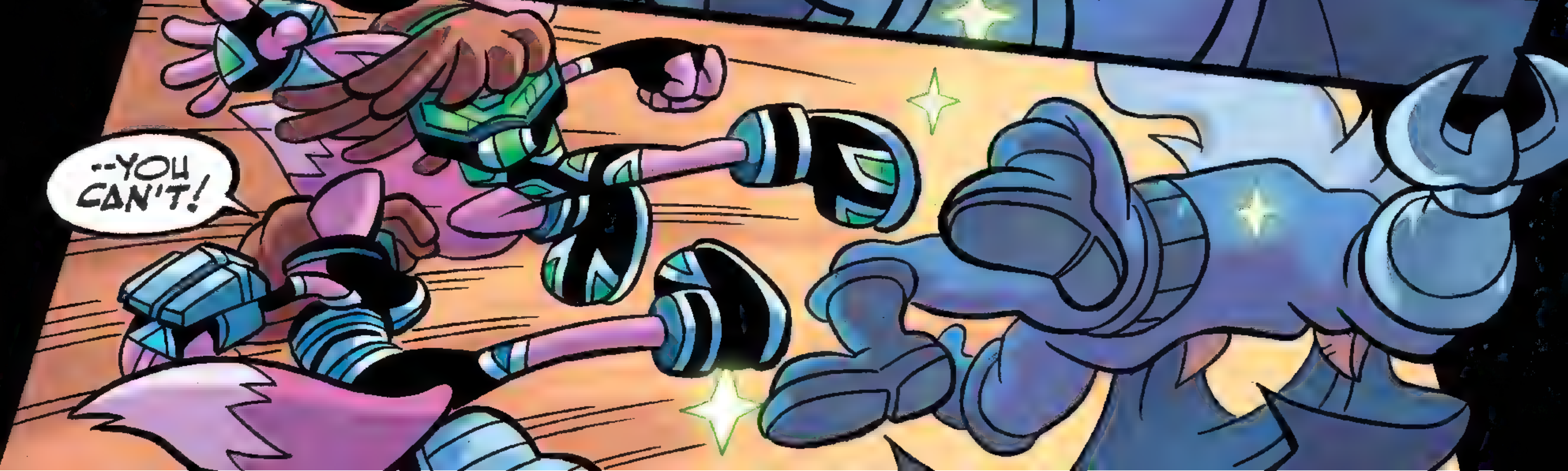


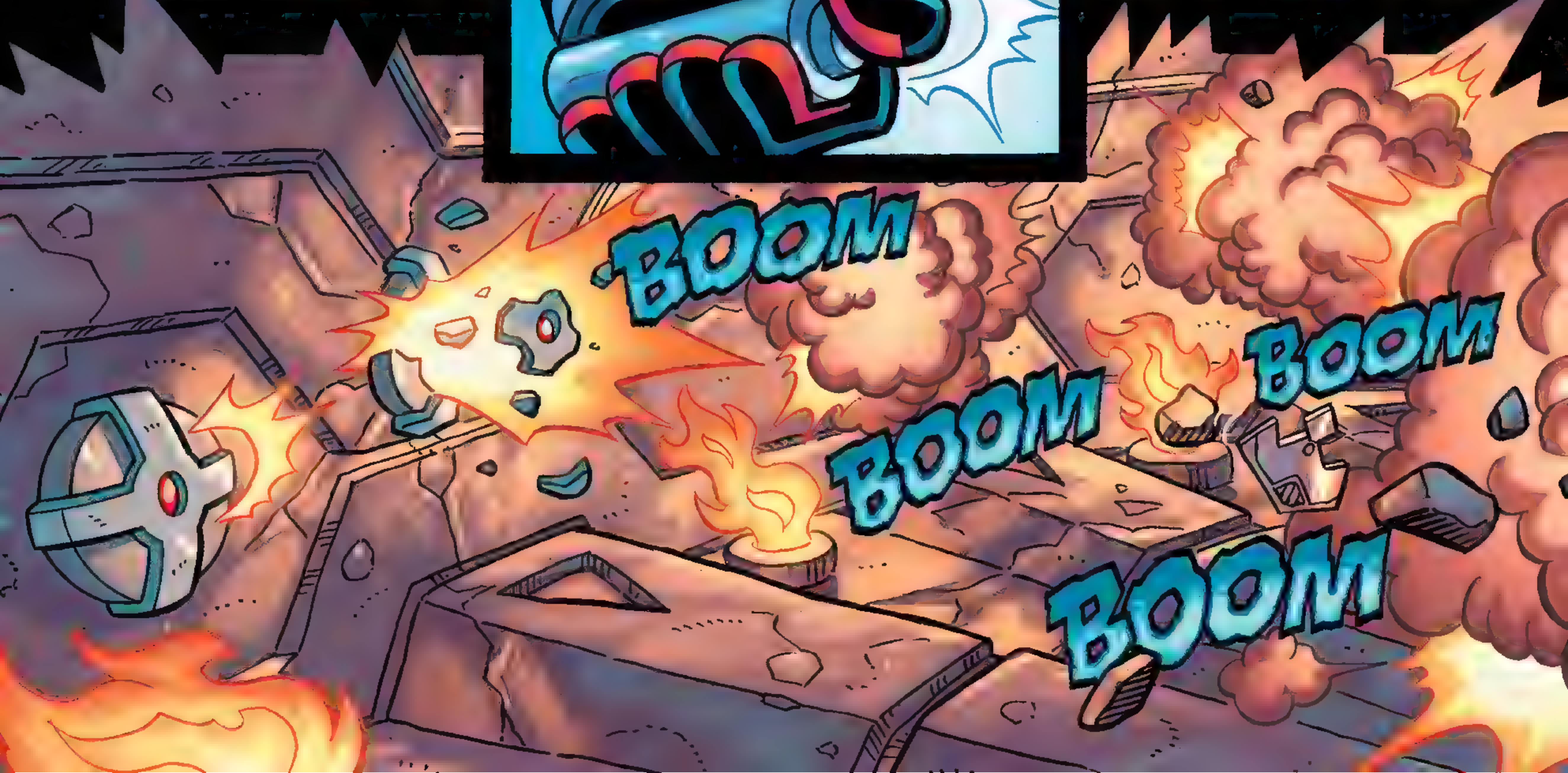
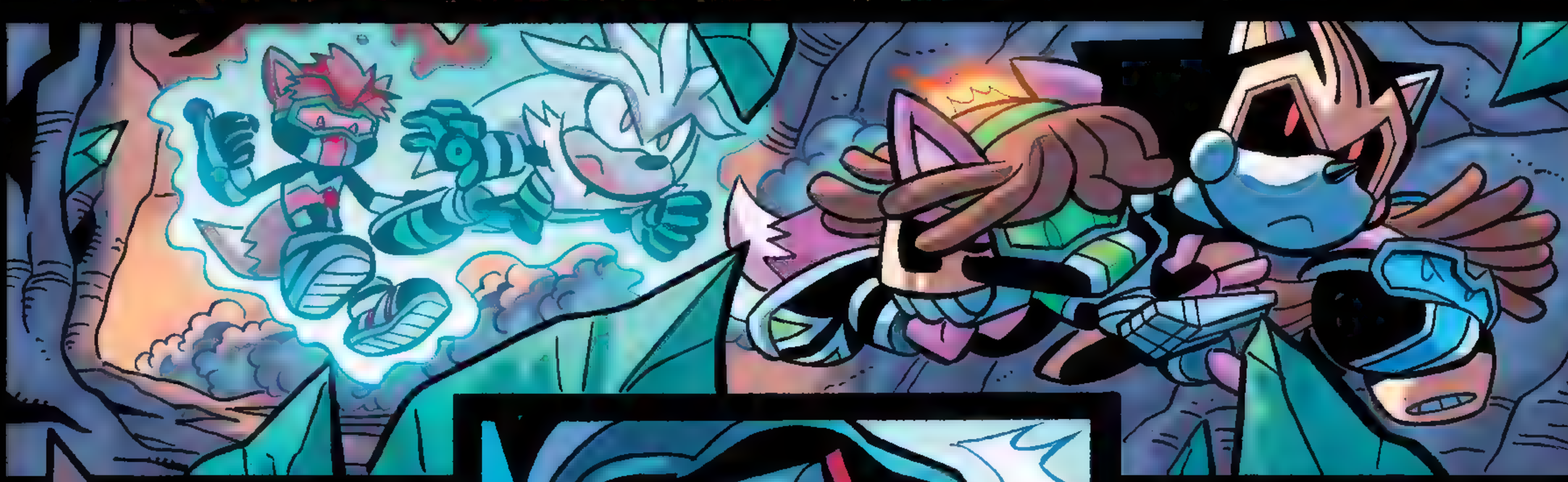
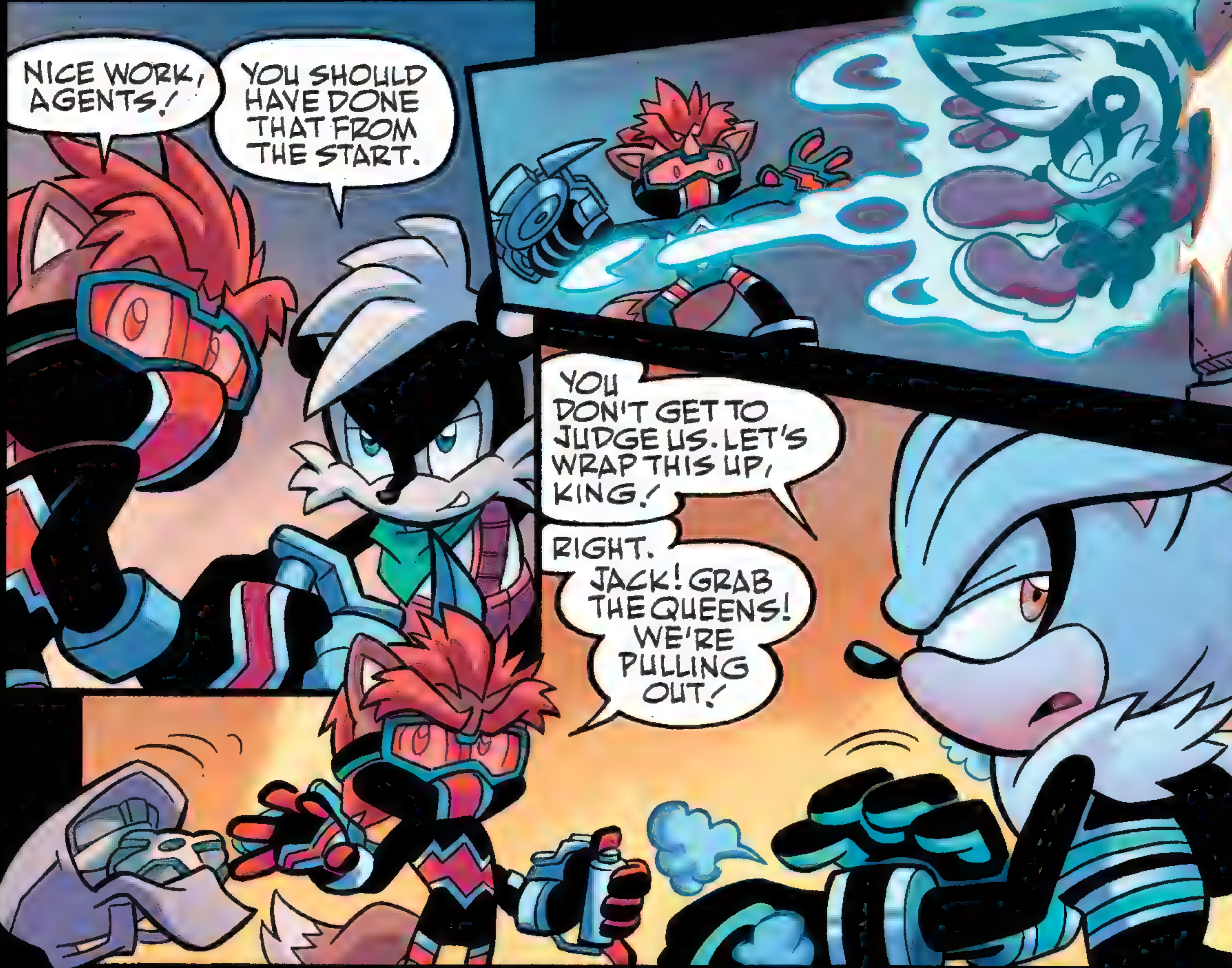
No!

NO--



--YOU CAN'T!





RUMBLE

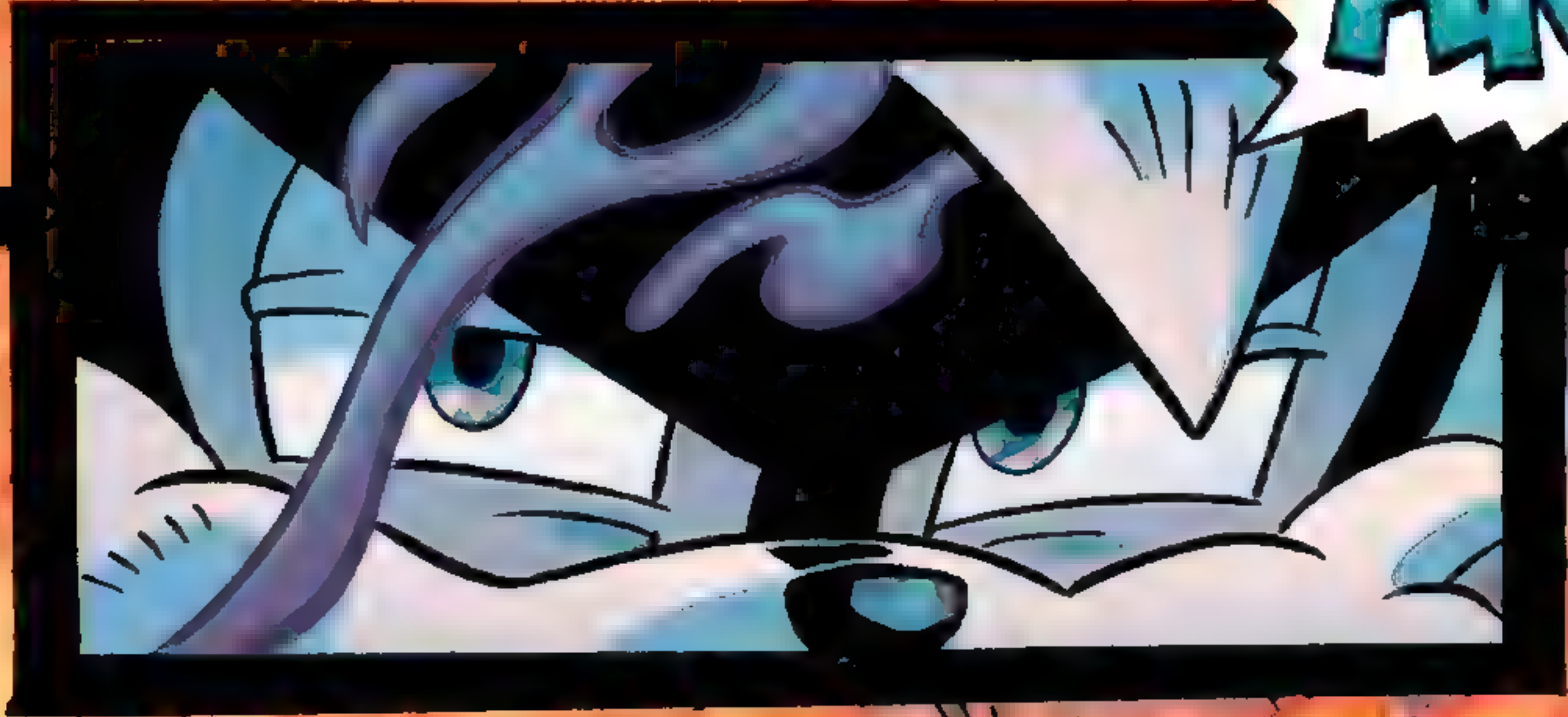


NO... ALL MY CAREFUL PLANNING... VALE'S BONES WASTED...



APPRENTICE! HELP ME!!

ARGH!!

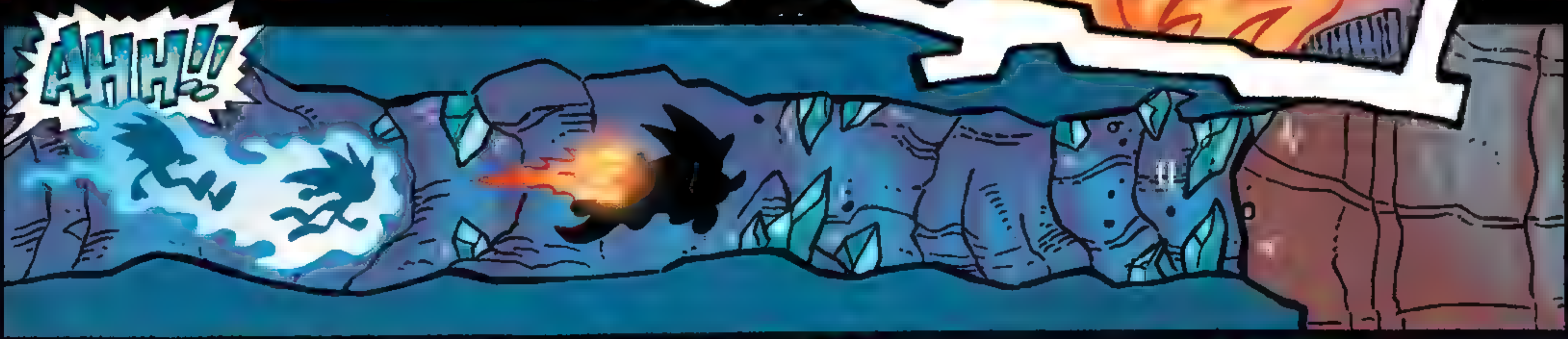




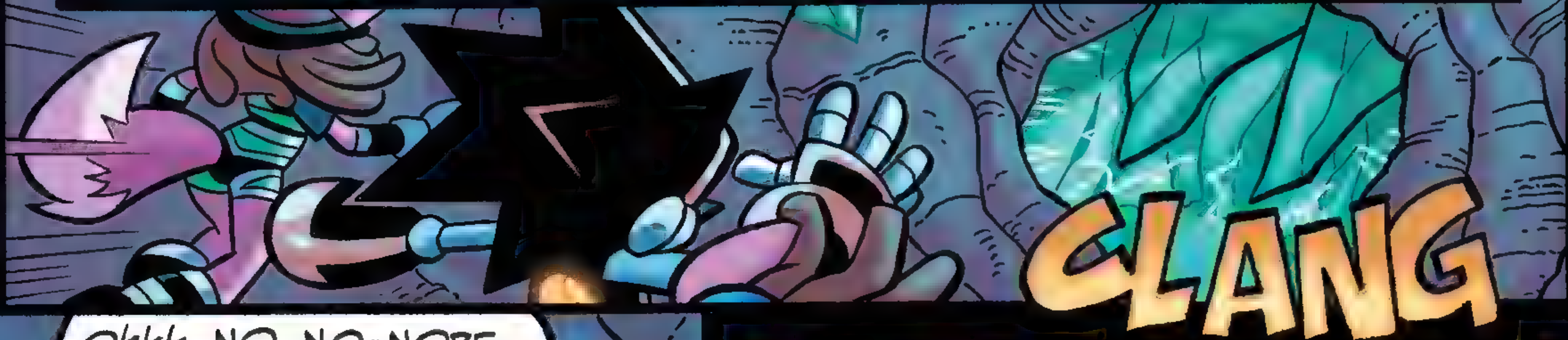
NO...



NO ESCAPE!!



AHH!!



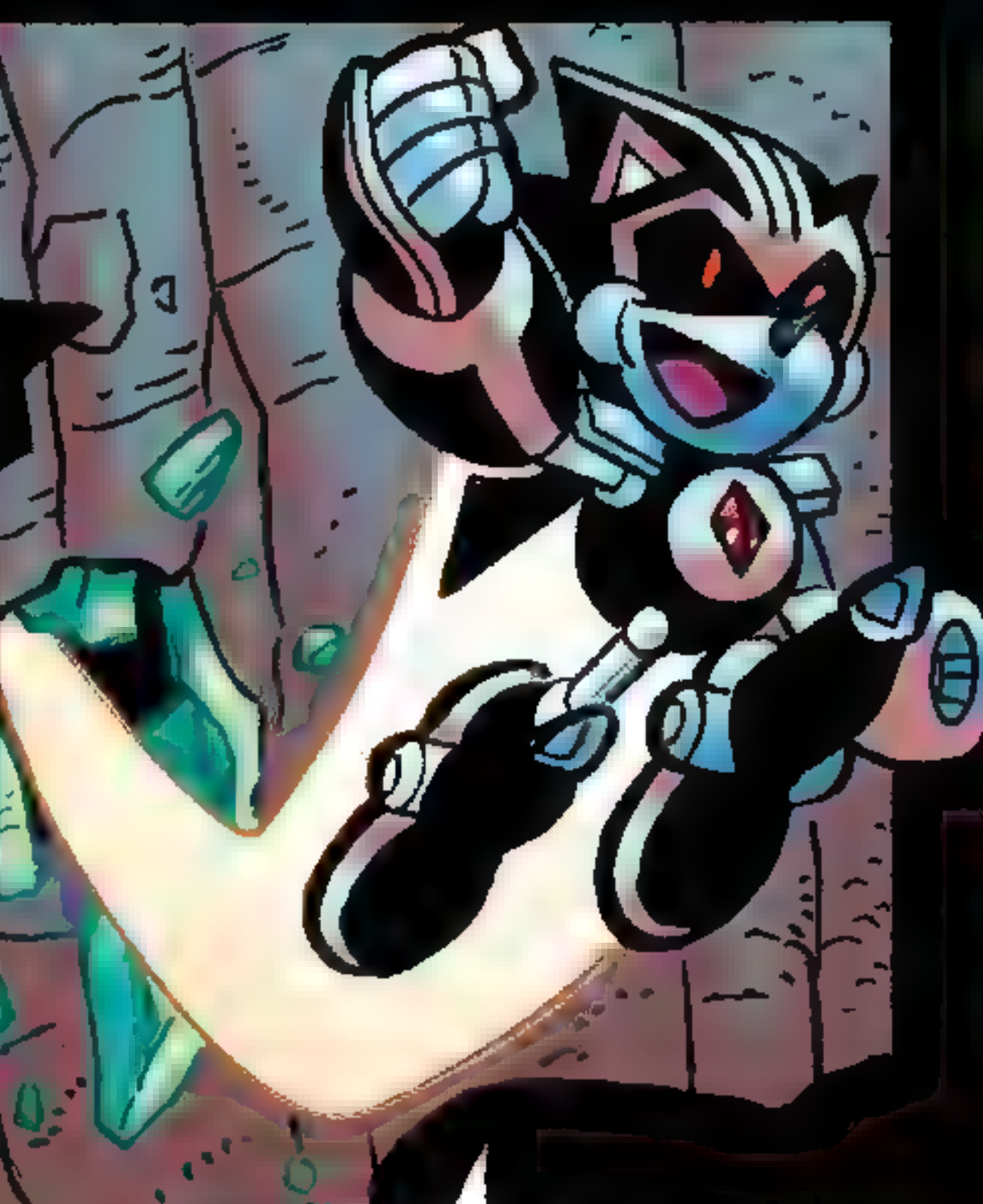
CLANG

OHhh, NO. NO-NOPE-NUH-UH! NO MORE BEING BURIED ALIVE! ACE, GRAB THE OTHERS! I'M MAKING US AN EXIT, AND IT'S GONNA GET LOUD!

RIGHT BEHIND YOU!



KRAASHH



FREEDOM!
FRESH AIR!
MAKES ME WISH I HAD TO BREATHE, SO I COULD ENJOY IT!

SAVE THE CELEBRATING FOR LATER. LET'S GET BACK TO BASE UNNOTICED FIRST!

AYE-AYE, CAP'N!

TRAITOR! LEFT ME! PUNISH...

NGH!
NO, SIR!
I WENT TO CHASE DOWN THOSE ENEMY AGENTS!

COUNCIL... NO CONTROL... WILL HAVE FELT TREMORS! MUST ATTACK FIRST...

OR--
RRGH!
YOU PLAY FOR SYMPATHY!

SAY YOU WERE INVESTIGATING INSTABILITY OF THE GROUND AND WERE CAUGHT IN A CAVE-IN. YOU SAVED THE CITY FROM COLLAPSE!

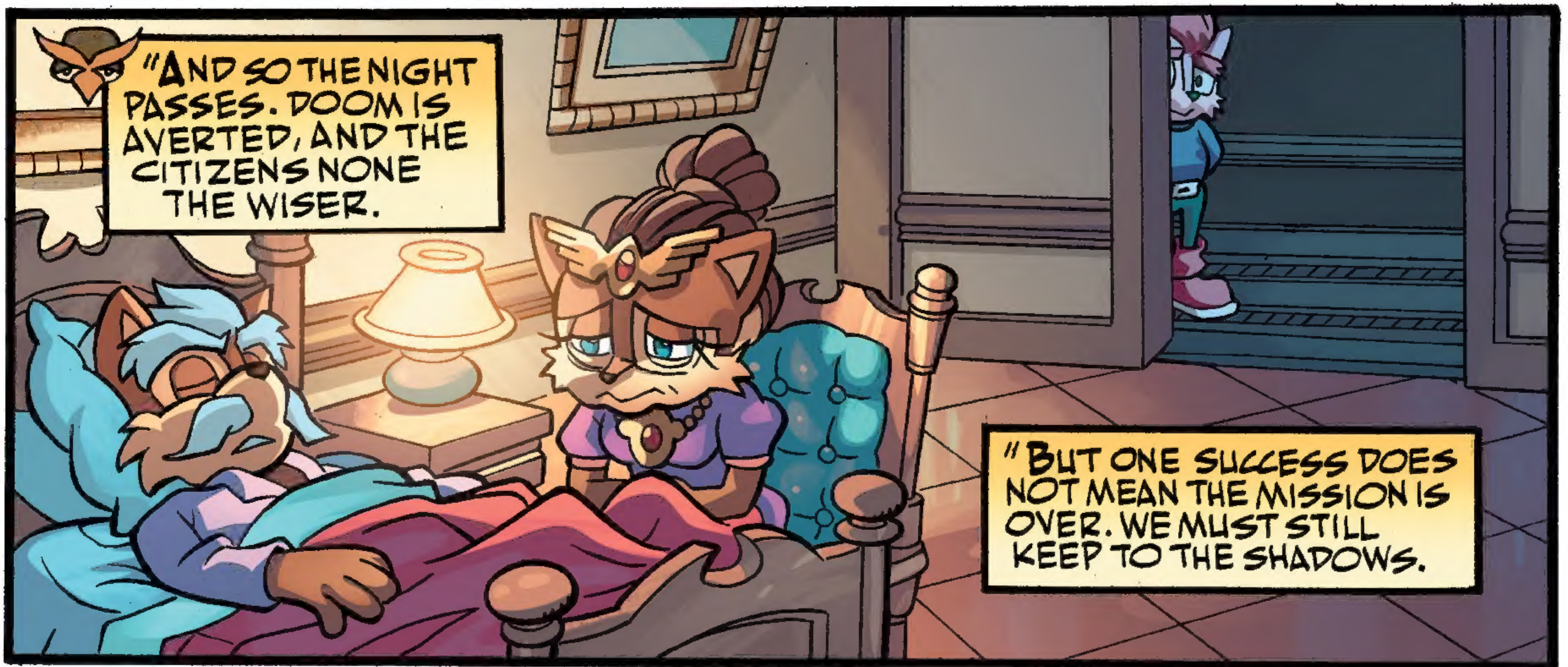
HRK!
GET IT?

FWASH

YES...YES, THAT WILL DO. GOOD THINKING, APPRENTICE.

OF COURSE.

I LIVE TO SERVE.

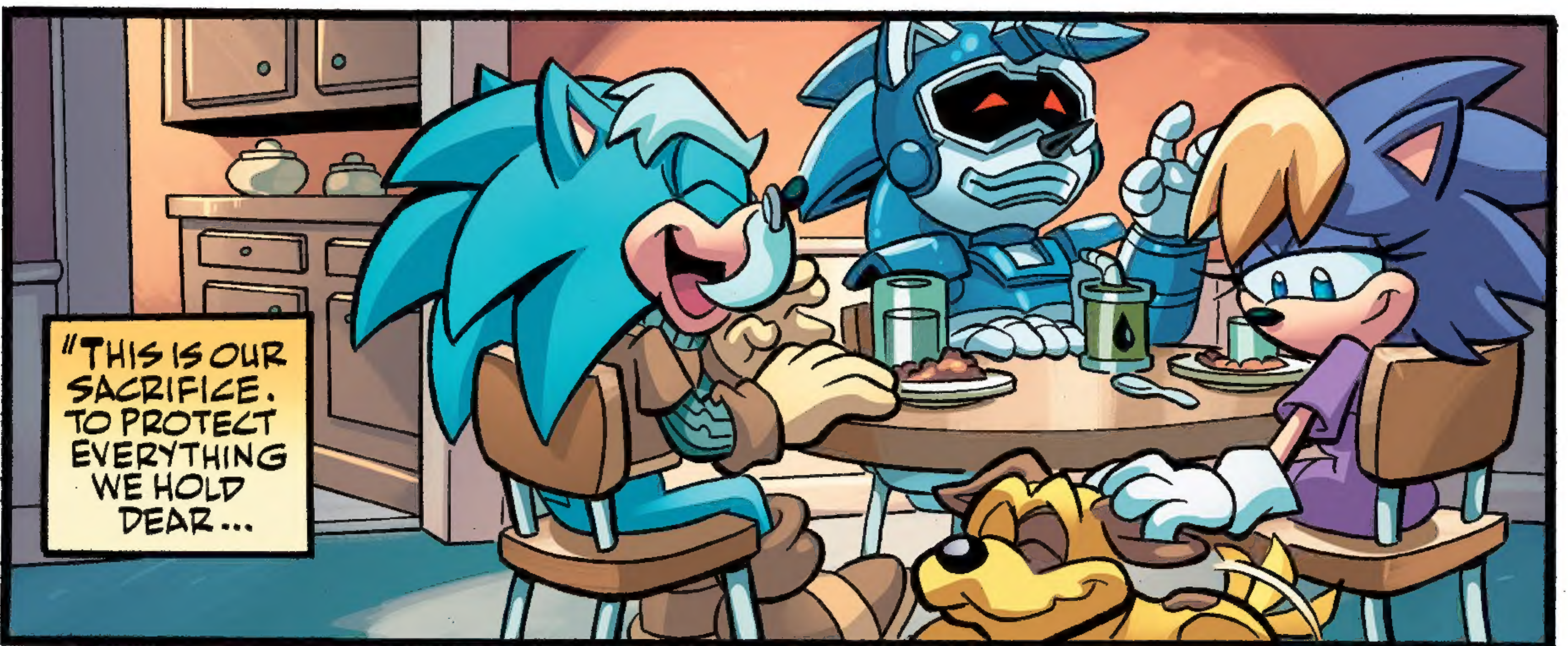


"AND SO THE NIGHT PASSES. DOOM IS AVERTED, AND THE CITIZENS NONE THE WISER."

"BUT ONE SUCCESS DOES NOT MEAN THE MISSION IS OVER. WE MUST STILL KEEP TO THE SHADOWS."



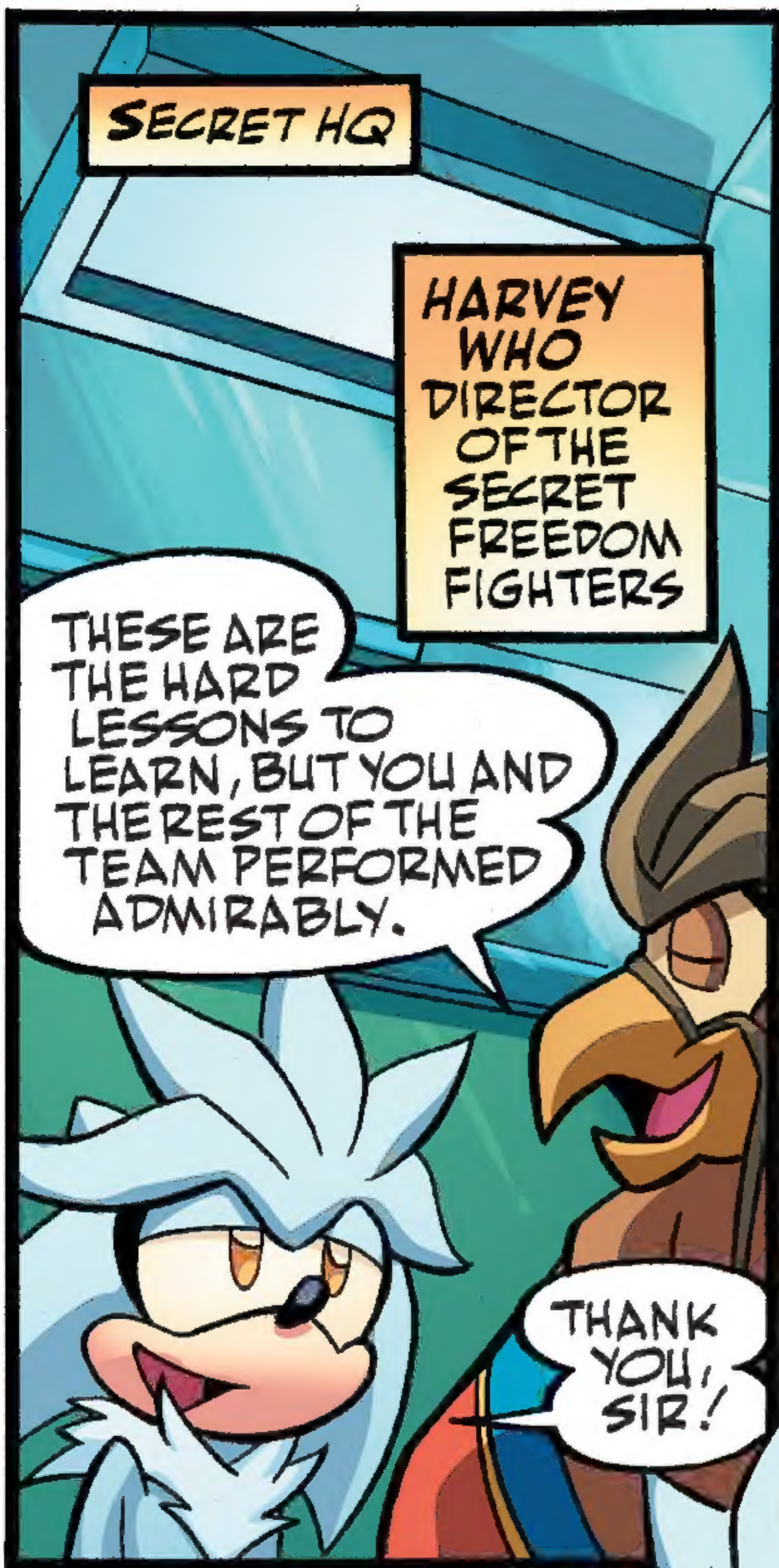
"WE CANNOT SHARE OUR VICTORY WITH OUR FRIENDS. WE CANNOT COMFORT OUR LOVED ONES. WE CANNOT EXIST IN MORE THAN RUMOR AND SECOND-GLANCES."



"THIS IS OUR SACRIFICE. TO PROTECT EVERYTHING WE HOLD DEAR..."



"...WE MUST GIVE UP WHAT WE WANT MOST."



SECRET HQ

HARVEY WHO DIRECTOR OF THE SECRET FREEDOM FIGHTERS

THESE ARE THE HARD LESSONS TO LEARN, BUT YOU AND THE REST OF THE TEAM PERFORMED ADMIRABLY.

THANK YOU, SIR!



NOW THEN-- I DIDN'T FORGET OUR BARGAIN. I'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING THE POTENTIAL TRAITOR AMONG THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS THAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.

GREAT! HAVE YOU FOUND WHAT I WAS MISSING?



I HAVE COMPARED THE ENTRIES OF ANTOINE D'COOLETTE'S DIARY-- BOTH FROM THE PRESENT AND THE ONE YOU RECOVERED FROM YOUR TIME. I TOOK INTO ACCOUNT EVERYTHING YOU TOLD ME AND APPLIED IT TO ALL THE PROFILES I HAVE ON FILE.



WAS IT OBVIOUS?

NOT IMMEDIATELY. TIME HAS A WAY OF TWISTING THE FACTS, OBSCURING THE EVIDENCE.

BUT GIVEN THE SUM OF IT ALL, I'M CONFIDENT I'VE DISCOVERED YOUR "TRAITOR!"



GREAT! SO WHO IS IT?!

SEE FOR YOUR-SELF.

OF THE ORIGINAL FOUNDING FREEDOM FIGHTERS, WE CAN ELIMINATE THESE THREE.



A close-up comic book panel showing Sonic the Hedgehog on the left, pointing his right hand towards a grey panel on the right. The panel has three large red 'X' marks. Sonic has a surprised expression with wide eyes and an open mouth. In the bottom right corner, a brown, bearded character with a mustache and a blue and orange outfit looks on with a serious expression.

WHAT?!

**YOU'RE SURE?!
THIS IS THE
TRAITOR?!**

YES.

**AND I
CAN TELL
YOU
WHY.**

SILVER'S HUNT FOR "THE TRAITOR" ENDS IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #247! NEXT ISSUE COME ON BACK FOR A SPECIAL ONE-SHOT ADAPTATION STORY OF SONIC ALL-STARS RACING TRANSFORMED! THEN BE BACK AFTER THAT WHEN WE FIND THE CHAOTIX ARE HOT ON THE TRAIL OF MIGHTY AND RAY IN THE ALL NEW "CHAOTIX QUEST!" AND DON'T MISS OUT ON THE SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE AND THE SONIC GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!

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COMING SOON! NEXT ISSUE: 45



EVERYBODY'S SUPER SONIC RACING!

REV UP YOUR ENGINES FOR THE EXCLUSIVE SONIC AND ALL STARS RACING TRANSFORMED STORY IN

"RACING FOR THE STARS"

ON SALE THE WEEK OF 10/23/12!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG: 241



A KING IN PERIL!

IXIS NAUGUS MAKES A DESPERATE MOVE YOU WON'T BELIEVE, AND AN OLD FOE RETURNS TO BATTLE TEAM FIGHTERS IN...

"UNRAVELLING"

ON SALE THE WEEK OF 10/09/12

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
Hi, I'm Caryn, resident Sonic the Hedgehog nerd. I simply love the characters, the story, the complexity, the drama, the action and, well, everything. Most of my friends don't seem to understand my obsession, but what I can't understand is why most girls my age are unaware of almost all things Sonic. I guess they don't have brothers that like to talk about that kind of thing.

I've been working on some stories of

my own, and I was wondering what kind of experience or education would make me more likely to become a writer for the Sonic the Hedgehog comics about two years in the future? I want in. :-)

Caryn P.
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

The best advice I can give aspiring writers is to study story structure and pacing as much as possible, and write as much as you can to hone your craft. If you have a favorite writer,

figure out what about that writing is compelling to you, and apply that to your own work. There's a lot of competition out there, but the truth is, if writing is your passion there's no reason you can't someday break into the business with enough practice and dedication. As for writing Sonic, well, I can't guarantee that -- Ian's got these books plotted out for the next 70 years (give or take a decade)!

SEE Y'ALL NEXT MONTH!

SECRET FREEDOM FIGHTER CHECKLIST:

COLLECT THE COMPLETE DEBUT OF THE NEWEST MOBIAN FIGHTING FORCE!



ON SALE NOW!

SONIC #238
SFF PRELUDE pt1



ON SALE NOW!

SONIC #239
SFF PRELUDE pt2



ON SALE NOW!

SONIC #240
SFF PRELUDE pt3



ON SALE OCTOBER

SONIC #241
SFF EPILOGUE



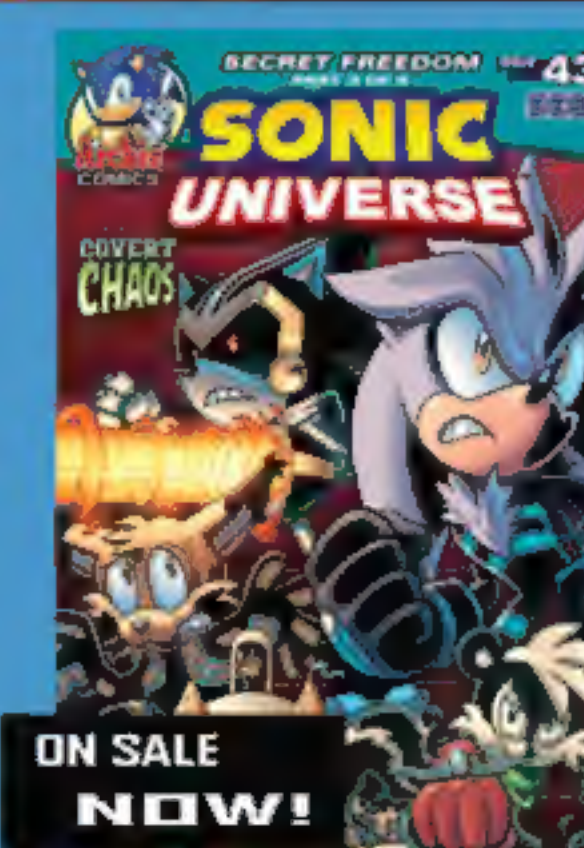
ON SALE NOW!

SU #41
SECRET FREEDOM pt1



ON SALE NOW!

SU #42
SECRET FREEDOM pt2



ON SALE NOW!

SU #43
SECRET FREEDOM pt3



ON SALE NOW!

SU #44
SECRET FREEDOM pt4

IT'S YOUR SONIC UNIVERSE!

We want your input! Write & tell us what you're likin', lovin', or what's leaving you in the dust! Remember, include "My Sonic Universe" in the subject line on your letter or e-mail! It's your Sonic Universe, after all, so drop us a line!